

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, NI
SUBJECT: LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 1840

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON OTHER SUBJECTS JUNE 9, NORWEGIAN DCM VRAALSEN DISCUSSED PLANNING FOR THE LAGOS WORLD CONFERENCE FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT SINCE HIS RETURN FROM MAPUTO WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER AGAINST APARTHEID, E.S. REDDY, WHO HAS EXTENSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNING THE LAGOS CONFERENCE. COMAPRED WITH THE OPERATION BY WHICH THE MAPUTO CONFERENCE WAS PREPARED, EFFORTS BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE CENTER HAVE BEEN POORLY ORGANIZED. VRAALSEN SAID HE HAS BEEN ADVISING REDDY TO STUDY THE SUCCESSFUL AND GENERALLY ORDERLY MANNER IN WHICH THE CONFERENCE AT MAPUTO WAS ORGANIZED.

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2. VRAALSEN SAID HE HAS ADVISED REDDY THAT THE SPONSORS OF THE CONFERENCE MUST DEVISE A PLAN WHICH WOULD AVOID FORCING ALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO SUBSCRIBE TO A MANDATORY PROGRAM OF ACTION. HE SAID REDDY AGREED THAT NIGERIA, BEING ANXIOUS TO MAKE THE LAGOS CONFERENCE MEANINGFUL AND SUCCESSFUL, DID NOT WISH TO PUSH THE CONFERENCE TO CONFRONTATION. VRAALSEON POINTED OUT TO REDDY

THERE ARE MANY STATES IN THE WORLD BEYOND THE WESTERN FIVE THAT WOULD RESIST BEING DRAFTED INTO COMPULSORY PARTICIPATION IN A PROGRAM OF ACTION. HE THOUGHT IT ENTIRELY FEASIBLE, HOWEVER, TO DRAFT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD BE FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD, HARD-HITTING AND YET CAPABLE OF GAINING UNIVERSAL SUPPORT AT THE CONFERENCE WITHOUT THE DILUTING EFFECT OF MULTIPLE RESERVATIONS. HE SUGGESTED TO REDDY THAT THEY THINK OF ORGANIZING A DRAFTING COMMITTEE UNDER THE PLENARY TO PREPARE THE MAIN CONFERENCE DOCUMENT. SEPARATE WOULD BE A "COMMISSION" ESTABLISHED TO DRAW UP A PROGRAM OF ACTION. THE COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE OPEN-ENDED AND VOLUNTARY--ANY STATE NOT WITHING TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE PROGRAM OF ACTION WOULD SIMPLY REFRAIN FROM PARTICIPATING. THE PROGRAM OF ACTION WOULD NOT BE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE PLENARY OR BE THE SUBJECT OF A REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR OTHER BODY, AS WOULD THE CONSENSUS DECLARATION.

3. VRAALSEN SAID REDDY ACCEPTED THESE POINTS AND APPEARED SERIOUS ABOUT DEVELOPING A MORE SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO CONFERENCE PLANNING. VRAALSEN URGED THAT THE US AND OTHER WESTERNERS ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH REDDY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE KNOWN WESTERN CONCERNS THAT SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATED IN PLANNING A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

4. VRAALSEN CONFIRMED THAT THE NIGERIANS HOPED FOR REPRESENTATION FROM EVEN MORE STATES THAN ATTENDED MAPUTO, AND A SENIOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION FROM AS MANY STATES AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID NORWAY PROBABLY WOULD BE RECONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENTED, AS AT MAPUTO, BY THE UNDER SECRETARY IN THEIR MINISTRY. THE PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER, IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO MAKE A MAJOR ADDRESS AT THE LAGOS CONFERENCE. YOUNG

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